THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, there are 11 major ports in the country located at Calcutta/Haldia, Mumbai, JL Nehru at Nhava Sheva, Chennai, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Kandla, Mormugao, Paradip, New Mangalore and Tuticorin. In addition, there are 139 operable Minor and Intermediate Ports.

(c) and (d) Adequate facilities are available to handle present level of traffic. However, in order to meet the increasing demand of handling traffic, additional cargo handling capacity of the order of around 122 Million Tonnes is proposed to be created during 9th Plan at various major ports.

(e) In Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam Port is proposed to be developed to cater to the increasing demand of traffic.

Modernisation of Rajabagan Dockyard

3456. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Minimum Investment Plan (MIP) of Rs. 20 crores has been proposed for modernisation of Rajabagan Dockyard;

(b) whether this schedule is likely to be completed in 18 months;

(c) whether Rs. 71 crores have been estimated as a revised cost for completion of the total modernisation job within 42 months;

(d) whether only Rs. 20 crores have been allocated for the Ninth Plan for the above purpose; and

(e) if so, the reasons for non-allocation of Rs. 71 crores for completion of the whole project during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. This includes proposed Dutch assistance of Rs. 9.9 crores, which is under consideration by this Ministry.

(b) The schedule of implementation is 18 months from the date of approval of the MIP and finalisation of the Indo-Dutch Grant Agreement.

(c) The Revised Cost Estimate sanctioned by the Government in December, 1992 for all shiprepair facilities at RBD was Rs. 71.34 crores. The implementation period was 33 months from the date of approval.

(d) and (e) The outlay for the Ninth Plan is under finalisation.

Helping non-striking Transporters

3457. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were several instances of damage to vehicles of those transporters who plied their vehicles inspite of the strike of transporters;

(b) whether it is a fact that the transport unions exerted pressure on small owners and compelled them to join the strike;

(c) the steps Government have taken to help the transporters who did not want to participate in the strike; and

(d) the steps taken to redress the grievances of the striking transporters?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) No such instance has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) All the State Governments/UT Administrators were instructed to provide adequate police protection, especially in sensitive areas to ensure that the striking transporters did not prevent the movement of goods vehicles/passengers, as well as to provide mobile police escorts for tanker-trucks operated by oil companies.